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# The Command Run

Vol. 2 No. 9 ■ Miami ■ Sept. 28, 2001

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Photo by Army  
Sgt. Carmen L. Burgess

# America Attacked



**President calls on military to prepare**

# 'This was an attack on our way of life'

By Donald H. Rumsfeld  
Secretary of Defense

As the men and women who have fought America's wars, you — more than all others — understand what the September 11th attack on freedom and democracy means for the days ahead.

More than simple acts of terrorism by radical or unbalanced individuals, this was an attack on our way of life, our country, our home.

In a recent message to U.S. armed forces here and abroad, I spoke of the memorable moments that have marked all great



*"I thank the same God for America's veterans — those of you who made us free and kept us free. I thank God for all you have done, and for all I know you will do again, to support peace and final victory."*

Donald H. Rumsfeld

crises throughout our history, images that live forever in our hearts and in our minds.

Not surprisingly, we've seen many such moments during this crisis as well — moments of remarkable courage

and selflessness; moments of fierce patriotism and pride:

Policemen and firefighters working night and day, with no thought for themselves; men, women and children giving blood until the banks

are overflowing; businesses and corporations donating coffee, food and water to sustain those who would not stop working; chaplains counseling distraught families; friends and total strangers reaching out in loving gestures of human support.

And everywhere — the American flag, on buses and taxicabs, in windows and over doorways, as armbands, on jackets and hats, and most especially, waving in glorious defiance above the smoking and twisted

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## Resolve

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wreckage our enemies have wrought. One such flag, unfurled by firefighters, proudly hangs huge and proud near the gash in the Pentagon wall.

But I also warned that more — much more — will be asked of Americans in the weeks and months ahead.

We face well-organized and sophisticated enemies, made all the more powerful by the

terror they are so willing to unleash. Now that terror has been brought to our door, we owe it to ourselves and — as the president has said — to all future generations, to stop it, eliminate it and destroy it at its

core.

Today, all Americans are united in anguish and anger. But we must also be united in purpose and in will. While the immediate task of vanquishing freedom's enemies

will fall to our military men and women, all of us — particularly those like you who understand the price of freedom — will be called upon to strengthen our national resolve.

And so, as we

ask God's tender mercies on all those who have fallen, we ask also for his guidance and protection for all of us who remain to finish the task now before us.

I thank the same God for America's veterans — those of you who made us free and kept us free. I thank God for all you have done, and for all I know you will do again, to support peace and final victory.

God bless you, and God bless America.

**Donald H. Rumsfeld**



Photo by Jim Garamone

### Defense Secretary Rumsfeld addresses the media Sept. 11.

# Command Run

is an authorized publication for members of the Department of Defense. Contents of the *Command Run* are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government or DoD. The editorial content is edited, prepared and provided by the U.S. Southern Command Public Affairs Office. Deadline for submissions is 5 p.m. Friday, a week before publication (the last Friday of each month). The public affairs staff reserves the right to edit all submissions to journalistic standards. All photos are official photos unless otherwise noted. Acceptance of input by the public affairs staff does not guarantee publication.

\* \* \* \* \*

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# Letter from the governor

(Editor's note: Gen. Peter Pace, U.S. Southern Command commander in chief, received this letter via E-mail just days after terrorists attacked the World Trade Center in New York and the Pentagon in Washington D.C., Sept. 11.)

*Written Sept. 14, 2001*

I am writing on behalf of all Floridians to thank you for your leadership in this moment of crisis for our wonderful country. We are blessed to have the best armed forces in the world. The men and women who protect our freedom will be put in harms way in the upcoming months and Floridians are thankful beyond words for their sacrifice.

God Bless America.

Jeb Bush



# President: It's war, and U.S. will be victorious

By Jim Garamone

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, Sept. 13, 2001 — “Now that war has been declared on us, we will lead (America) to victory,” President Bush said following a conversation with New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani and New York Gov. George Pataki.

Bush spoke to the two about the Sept. 11 terrorist attack on the World Trade Center in the city and the current situation. He pledged all the resources of the federal government to help the city cope with the disaster.

As calls of support come to Washington from



U.S. Army photo by Paul Disney

**Local firefighters battle the blaze set after terrorists crashed a civilian jet into the Pentagon Sept. 11. Approximately 180 defense personnel lost their lives.**

around the globe, Bush said, he and his security team are working on a cam-

paign to win the war on terrorists. He told the governor and mayor that his re-

solve is “steady and strong about winning this war that has been declared on America.”

Bush said the New York and Pentagon attacks begin a new kind of war and that the United States must adjust to these new realities. He said that stamping out terrorism would require cooperation around the world.

“This government will call others to join us, to make sure this act, these acts, the people who conducted these acts and those who harbor them, are held accountable for their ac-

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## War

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tions,” Bush said.

Secretary of State Colin Powell said Sept. 12 that Americans must understand that this war will not be quick strikes and over. It won’t end with a single counterattack against one individual, he said.

“It’s going to be a long-term conflict, and it’s going to be fought on many fronts—the military front, the intelligence front, the law enforcement front, the diplomatic front,”

Powell said.

At a Pentagon news conference Sept. 13, Deputy Defense Secretary Paul Wolfowitz also stressed the campaign will be a long one.

“We’re going to see how this unfolds, and it’s going to unfold over time,” Wolfowitz said. “I think one thing is clear—that you don’t do it with just a single military strike no matter how dramatic. It will be a campaign, not a single action. And

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DoD photo by Jim Garamone

**Helicopters land at a makeshift heliport near the Pentagon following the terrorist attack on the building Sept. 11. The plane hit the Pentagon at about 9:40 a.m. and peeled the Pentagon’s reinforced concrete back all the way to the “B” ring. The attack took place less than an hour after suspected terrorists crashed two airliners into the World Trade Center in New York, destroying the two 110-story buildings. Witnesses said evacuation of the building was calm and orderly. Hundreds of military and civilian workers helped local medics with the rescue efforts. The area outside the Pentagon became a staging area for medical and emergency personnel.**



U.S. Army photo by Paul Disney

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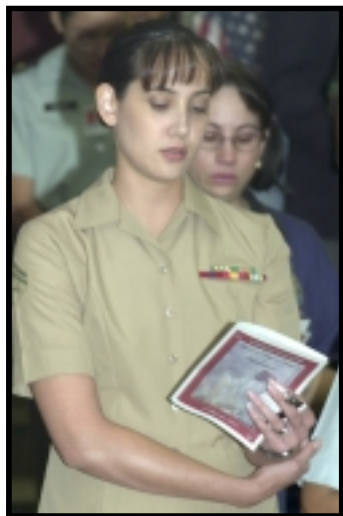
we're going to keep after these people and the people who support them until this stops.

"I think the whole civilized world has been shocked by what's happened, and even some elements of the uncivilized world have begun to wonder whether maybe they're on the wrong side here."

**(Left) Military medical personnel rush to the Pentagon to aid victims Sept. 11.**



# Command joins together to remember, pray



**(Left and above) U.S. Southern Command members participate in the National Day of Prayer and Remembrance Sept. 14. (Right) Lt. Cmdr. Amelia Reguera, J-2 Intelligence Directorate, sings the National Anthem during the ceremony.**



MIAMI — Members of the U.S. Southern Command joined together at the headquarters Sept. 14 to pray for and remember the victims of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks on America.

President Bush proclaimed Sept. 14 as National Day of Prayer and Remembrance and encouraged Americans to attend noontime services to pray for the nation.

Prayer services at SOUTHCOM included a rendition of

the National Anthem and “God Bless the USA” by Lt. Cmdr. Amelia Reguera, J-2 Intelligence Directorate, responsive readings from the Bible, and one minute of silence honoring the victims.

Air Force Col. Emilio Chaviano, the command’s chaplain, also led the command in prayer as the command and nation mourned those who lost their lives and those who

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## Remember

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courageously worked at each crash site.

In his proclamation, Bush said terrorists hijacked four passenger jets, crashed two of them into the World Trade Center's twin towers and a third into the Pentagon, causing great loss of life and tremendous damage.

The fourth plane crashed in the countryside of Pennsylvania, killing all on board but falling well short of the hijackers' intended target — one of the last communications from the



plane reportedly was a request to air controllers for permission to turn toward Washington. The press is reporting

widely the possibility that the passengers and crew tried to overwhelm the terrorists.

The president

**Col. Emilio Chaviano, U.S. Southern Command chaplain, leads the congregation present for the National Day of Prayer and Remembrance Ceremony in prayer. President Bush encouraged Americans to attend noontime services Sept. 14 to pray for the nation. (Photos by Air Force Tech. Sgt. Lee Roberts)**

said the collapse of both 110-story Trade Center towers and the destruction of part of the Pentagon resulted in horrific

carnage — more than 250 airline passengers and, officials fear, many thousands more people on the ground.

“We mourn with those who have suffered great and disastrous loss,” Bush said. “All our hearts have been seared by the sudden and senseless taking of innocent lives. We pray for healing and for the strength to serve and encourage one another in hope and faith.”

**(Rudi Williams, American Forces Press Service contributed to this article)**



## ***Command status***

Brig. Gen. Richard Huck, U.S. Southern Command chief of staff, addresses the Miami media Sept. 11 at the headquarters on the status of the command in the wake of terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center in New York and the Pentagon in Washington D.C. (Photo by Air Force Tech. Sgt. Lee Roberts)



# Pace salutes, says farewell to command



Photo by Air Force Tech. Sgt. Lee Roberts

**Gen. Peter Pace, U.S. Southern Command commander in chief, says farewell to the civilian and military members of the command during a commander's call at the headquarters in Miami Sept. 20, 2001.**

**By Navy Petty Officer 1<sup>st</sup> Class  
Gabe Puello**

Command Run Assistant Editor

Miami — As birds chirped in the distance and the whole of the command circled around one man in the forefront of an American flag at half-mast, Gen. Peter Pace, commander in chief, U.S. Southern Command, said his final goodbyes Sept 20 to civilian and military members of the headquarters staff.

Pace assumed command of SOUTHCOM a year ago and will cut his tour short as a result of his new assignment as the vice chairman of the Joint

Chiefs of Staff. Gen. Richard Myers, vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, will assume the position of chairman of the Joint Chiefs as Gen. Hugh Shelton, chairman, retires from active duty service Sunday.

During a heart-felt twenty-minute speech, delivered nine days after the terrorist attack upon the World Trade Center, Pace thanked everyone for “what they had done personally for SOUTHCOM, for their service, whether in uniform or not and especially for

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## Pace

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this country.”

He further stated his heartfelt delight at having been chosen by the President of the United States and the Secretary of Defense to be working in Washington. “If anybody had

asked me what I was feeling about this job prior to the events of nine days ago, I would have told you I was sorry to leave SOUTHCOM... but willing to go to Washington. Since then, my view has changed. I’m still



**Gen. Peter Pace says farewell Sept. 20.**

sorry to leave SOUTHCOM, but now I’m anxious... to go to Washington.”

Pace went on to mention the weeks and months ahead were going to be difficult ones, but for those who stay in Miami, and he spoke

for everyone except himself, what they (SOUTHCOM) do here will now take on added meaning. “We are about to enter very-very uncharted waters as a country and we are going to need our friends, as much as they are going to need us. What we do here in this hemisphere, to be good partners and good friends, is going to become more important in the months and weeks ahead,” added Pace.

He mentioned how the upcoming campaign against terror would be worldwide, and it

would certainly include all of the area for which the command is collectively responsible for. In light of the events evolving throughout the globe, Pace maintained, “our contacts... what each person does here at this headquarters, is going to become more and more important very soon... We all collectively need wisdom right now. We need to be able to answer madness with focused energy in order to conduct an anti-terrorism campaign, and not a holy war, and make the right judgment as to

what is justice...and what is revenge. All of us, in the responsibilities we have, are going to be important to this process.”

Pace especially thanked the younger members of the command for the sacrifices they make every day living in Miami. He mentioned what a wonderful place Miami is to live in, but just living here he acknowledged was a financial burden for many of them and their families. Pace stated he would continue to work on qual-

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## **Pace** *from Page 12*

ity of life issues and one of the things he had written into his Senate confirmation testimony reflected his views on quality of life here and what needs to be done to improve the lives of all the servicemen living in the area. He further reiterated he would continue to push for quality of life issues for SOUTHCOM in his new position.

The general completed his speech and again he thanked all those present, and asked that he be permitted to salute the throng around him as they stood at ease for one last time. To this, the general received a

resounding round of applause and hooahs!, from the audience and stepped away from the lectern. He was then presented with a gift on behalf of the enlisted men and women of U.S. Southern Command for his continued leadership and dedication to their well-being.

The inscription on the gift read, "Remember the troops, sir." To this, the general responded with a tearful recalling of the names of Marines led by 2nd Lt. Peter Pace 34 years ago while in combat in Vietnam, that were not fortunate to have survived the war. Those Marines, he could never repay, but he would never forget them as he would not forget the men



Photo by Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Martha Ruiz

**Members of the U.S. Southern Command rally around their leader, Gen. Peter Pace, one last time as the general thanks them for their support and service.**

and women he had the at SOUTHCOM.  
great honor to serve with

## Nicaragua, Honduras honor General Pace



Photo by Navy Lt. j.g. Frank Kostenko  
General of the Army Javier Carrión McDonough (Left), commander in chief of the Army of Nicaragua, bestows the order "Army of Nicaragua" to Gen. Peter Pace in Miami Sept. 19, honoring him for his service as commander in chief.



Photo by Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Gabe Puello  
General de Brigada (Left), Honduras chief of the Joint Staff, presents the "Grand Cross of the Armed Forces" to Gen. Peter Pace, U.S. Southern Command commander in chief, during an award ceremony Sept. 19 at the headquarters in Miami.



## **Command's airmen celebrate service's birthday**

**Ceremony sombered by terrorist attacks on nation**

**By Tech. Sgt. Lee Roberts**  
Command Run Editor

MIAMI – U.S. Southern Command airmen celebrated the Air Force's 54<sup>th</sup> birthday here Sept. 18, but in reverence of lives lost during recent terrorist attacks on the nation, the atmosphere was also somber.

Following a moment of silence for the victims of the terrorist attacks, Brig. Gen. Robert Bishop, the director of the J-5 Strategy, Policy and Plans Directorate, and the command's Air Force element commander,



**Photos/Tech. Sgt. Lee Roberts**  
**The command pays tribute.**



**Command Chaplain Col. Emilio Chaviano prays.**

thanked everyone for attending the birthday celebration. But he said, "We



**Brig. Gen. Robert Bishop, the director of the J-5 Strategy, Policy and Plans Directorate, and command's Air Force element commander, speaks at the Air Force's birthday celebration.**

do so in the shadow of the worst terrorist attack probably in the history of man-

kind – certainly on U.S. soil."

The general added that it was appropriate to pay tribute to the victims of the terrorist attack by pausing for a second to remember, but he also noted that everyone should honor the more than 55,000 airmen that have paid the ultimate sacrifice over the years... laying down their lives in service to the nation.

Bishop also recognized the hard work and dedication of the many active duty, Reserve and National Guard personnel serving the nation and working at the headquarters. And then he introduced several

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## Birthday

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motivational videos depicting the Air Force's worldwide mission.

Then Master Sgt. Dave Gallardo, the oldest airman assigned, and Airman 1<sup>st</sup> Class Patricia Bennett, the youngest airman assigned, participated in a cake-cutting ceremony with Bishop and Chief Master Sgt. Bill Hoerman, the services' senior enlisted NCO in the command.

Gallardo, who joined the Air Force



Photo by Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Martha Ruiz  
**Master Sgt. Dave Gallardo (Left), the oldest airman assigned, and Airman 1<sup>st</sup> Class Patricia Bennett (Right), the youngest airman assigned, participated in a cake-cutting ceremony with Bishop (second from left) and Chief Master Sgt. Bill Hoerman, the services' senior enlisted NCO in the command.**

in 1964, explained of the Air Force and that he joined be- its people. "I can look cause of the strength back at the great

memories," he said, "and I can share them with others."

Bennett added that she recently joined the Air Force because she wanted to travel. "I wanted to meet people and for the opportunities I would have for education," she added.

Marine Brig. Gen. Richard Huck, the chief of staff, then joined in a toast and proclaimed, "We have the world's best Air Force and I'm doggone proud of it."

The National Security Act of 1947, which became law on July 26, 1947, provided three military

departments – the Army, the Navy, and the Air Force. The law created the civilian positions of secretary of defense and secretary of the Air Force.

As a result, the Air Force became an independent service on Sept. 18, 1947 and W. Stuart Symington became the first secretary of the Air Force. The law also assigned functions assigned to the commanding general, Army Air Forces, to the Department of the Air Force. Gen. Carl A. Spaatz became the first chief of staff Sept. 26, 1947.

# Nine-nation exercise preps peacekeepers

**By Navy Petty Officer 1st Class  
Gabe Puello**

Command Run Assistant Editor

SALTA, Argentina — Cabañas 2001, an annual Joint Chiefs of Staff multinational peacekeeping, situational and field training exercise sponsored by U.S. Southern Command and supported by Special Operations Command South, came to a conclusion here Sept. 11.

“This exercise is the largest joint and combined service exercise held in the region, involving military personnel from Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Ecuador, Paraguay, Peru,



**Photo by Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Gabe Puello**  
**Soldiers from the Ecuadorian coalition deal with a simulated hostage-terrorist crisis during Cabañas 2001 in Salta, Argentina.**

United States, and Uruguay,” said Brig. Gen. Remo Butler, commanding general, SOCSO. The military personnel of the participating nations

used this peacekeeping and field training exercise hosted by Argentina to attain a greater understanding of common interests and regional human rights subjects. “The purpose of the exercise is to familiarize the participants with issues and decision-making procedures specific to peacekeeping operations,” added Butler.

At its peak, the exercise had 1,300 civilian and military personnel taking part in 33 peacekeeping duties as approved by the United Nations. U.S. Spe-

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## Cabañas

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cial Forces from 7<sup>th</sup> Special Force Group and 20<sup>th</sup> SFG trained each country's delegation in tasks such as minefield, tactics, civilian-military operations, convoy duties, security and general operations.

The month-long training at the Salta, Argentina, 5<sup>th</sup> Mechanized Brigade Base began with the situational training exercise portion of Cabañas 2001, consisting of eight lanes of training. This portion certified the skills of a platoon of



Photo by Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Gabe Puello

**Chilean forces assist a wounded comrade evacuated by helicopter during the field training exercise portion of Cabañas 2001.**

soldiers from each of the participating nations. Many of these platoons were already practicing these skills prior to their arrival in Argentina. The United Na-

tions has requested units be certified prior to their departure on peacekeeping missions. While the platoons trained in the military base lanes, a cadre of soldiers from one of the other nations evaluated them. After each lane was completed their performance was discussed and the platoons moved on to more training on their own prior to participating in a field training exercise that puts all the skills to practical use.

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Photo by Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Gabe Puello  
**Sgt. Michael Harsch, 20th Special Forces Group and Cabañas 2001 trainer, overseas Paraguayan coalition forces demining a simulated roadside “booby trap” during an exercise.**

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“It’s wonderful to see how many different cultures work together at a common task. We throw a curve ball into the training exercise by introducing basic psychological tactics and practices at the participants,” said Spc. Stacy Bestland, 13<sup>th</sup> Psychological Operations Battalion, Arden Hill, Minn.

The eight-lane training exercises consisted of convoy, mines, checkpoint, installation security, civil military operations, press station, helicopter operations and patrolling. Each of the lanes used local civilian and military person-

nel to roll play as terrorists, reporters, injured victims, rioters, guerilla members and more, in order to throw the entire gamut of possible emergency peacekeeping operations at the trainees.

One of the well-scripted scenarios on the patrolling lane involved soldiers conducting a reconnaissance mission to secure a safe route for UN convoy passage. This patrol encounters a roadblock controlled by guerillas and the unit tries to negotiate their way out. When the negotiations prove futile, the unit must utilize a show of force until the guerillas allow the unit to pass. The

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## Cabañas

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unit continues on and runs into sniper fire and they must react to the sniper with an appropriate immediate action drill, break contact, and continue to move. Next, a woman informs the commander that several guerillas entered the city the previous evening and murdered her family in her home while searching the house for weapons, food and money. The unit searches the house for booby-traps and acquires a stock of



weapons, leading to local law enforcement being called into the situation. Once the unit completes its mission, it secures the area and prepares for the convoy's

arrival.

"This is an extremely important exercise because it gives military troops the opportunity to work with different countries to see how

**Sgt. Jose Martinez and Spc. Stacy Bestland, 13th Psychological Operations Battalion, communicate command messages during Cabañas 2001 over the public address system. (Photo by Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Gabe Puello)**

they operate, and to take some of our skills that we have and share them with those countries," said Butler. "... I had the opportunity to shake hands with each and

every soldier, airman and sailor participating, and the first thing that impressed me was the professionalism. For example, the Brazilian troops that are here all speak three languages: English, Spanish and Portuguese."

"In the future, U.S. troops will not be working unilaterally," explained Butler, "we're going to be working with people from different countries. By putting us together in one pot we get the opportunity to experience different cultures."



**By Tech. Sgt. Lee Roberts,  
USAF**

Command Run Editor

## Two command youths garner scholarships

MIAMI -- Two U.S. Southern Command youth recently garnered \$1,000 scholarships for college.

Rhiannon Suarez, daughter of Navy Lt. Cmdr. Orlando Suarez, Command Group, and Michael Rogers, son of Rachele Alvirez, J-5 Strategy, Policy, and Plans Directorate, were each selected through an Army-developed program that provides college scholarships for youth at various installations.

This year Garrison Miami obtained a commitment for two \$1,000 scholarships, which are funded



**Michael Rogers**



**Rhiannon Suarez**

by the Boys and Girls Clubs of America and the President's Student Ser-

vice Scholarship Organization.

Each scholarship re-

cipient completed more than 100 hours of community service as a volunteer and completed a written essay, which was centrally reviewed for selection.

Both scholarship winners are already putting their good fortunes to use.

Suarez is now a freshman at the University of Florida in Gainesville.

Rogers is now a freshman at Florida Atlantic University in Miami.

According to Michael Rhodes, quality of life advisor to the commander in chief, this was a fantastic accomplishment for both of these young adults. He also applauded the scholarship program and encourages young adults to utilize this program again next year.

## News briefs

### Separating?

If you are within 180 days of separation or within one year of retirement, there is a mandatory pre-separation briefing 2:30 to 4 p.m. Oct. 5 and 10 at the Education Center at the Codina Building located at 8300 NW 33rd Street in Miami.

These briefings are a prerequisite for the four-day Transition Assistance Program workshops that are held quarterly (The next one is July

16-19). For more information, call Michela Barrow at **(305) 437-2665** or **2632**.

### BX shuttle

The U.S. Southern Command runs a shuttle from the Thurman Building north entrance to the Homestead Air Reserve Station BX Mart every Tuesday at 8:30 a.m. and returns when all patrons are done shopping or conducting business, which is no later than 2:30 p.m. The shuttle is for all

military and civil service personnel. Family members can also utilize the shuttle to Homestead.

### TAP workshop

The next transition assistance program workshop is Oct. 22-25 from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the La Quinta Hotel, 8730 NW 27th Street. For more information or to sign up call **(305) 437-2671** or **2726**.

### Newcomer's

The Family Support Center is spon-

soring a newcomers briefing 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Oct. 12 at the Base Operations Education Center located at the Codina Building, Suite 110, 8300 NW 33rd Street.

The briefing includes presentations from the TRICARE representative; SOUTHCOM Health Clinic; Housing Office; Traffic Management Office; Education Office; Legal Office; Quality of Life Office; Morale, Welfare, and Recreation; DoD Police; and

chaplain. For more information or to reserve your seat at the briefing, call **(305) 437-2667**.

### Miami tour

The Family Support Center is sponsoring its monthly Miami area tour 9 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. Oct. 5.

The tour is free to military personnel and their families. The tour begins and ends at the Codina Building, Suite 110,

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at 8300 NW 33 Street. For more information or to sign up for the tour, call **(305) 437-2665**.

## Finance class

The Family Support Center is sponsoring a basic personal finance class 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. Oct. 17 at the Base Operations Education Center located at the Codina Building, Suite 110, 8300 NW 33rd Street.

The class covers subjects such as banking, budgeting, credit, debt reduction, mutual funds and insurance. This is an introductory class designed for junior personnel and family members. For more in-

formation or to sign up for the tour, call **(305) 437-2665**.

## Space center trip

The U.S. Southern Command's director of Community Activities is sponsoring a trip Oct. 6 to the Kennedy Space Center near Orlando, Fla.

Cost for the trip is \$21.50 for adults and \$7.95 for children age 3 to 10. Call **(305) 437-2639** to sign up or for more information.

## Spouse Expo

The U.S. Southern Command's first-ever Spouse Expo is 9:45 a.m. to noon Oct. 19 at the Radisson Mart Plaza Hotel and Convention Center located at 711 NW 72nd Av-

enue in Miami. The event gives spouses information about TRICARE, schools, libraries, local area safety, ZIP-Code coffee groups, parks and recreation programs, hurricane safety, transportation, financial counseling and budget analysis, childcare information, spouse employment assistance, education, housing, local area attractions and more. Call Jennifer Harms at **(305) 437-2667** to RSVP, sign up for child care or for more information.

## Brown bag it

A brown bag lunch is planned 11:30 a.m. Sept. 21 in Room 2404 at the Thurman Building where the participants will be

able to discuss health and fitness issues. Call **(305) 437-1152** to sign up.

## Zip Code meetings

The Zip Code Coffee Groups meetings allow spouses to meet other spouses and exchange ideas, babysitters, places to go, best bargains, best doctors, and more.

Call the following coordinators to get involved:

In Kendall, Hammocks, Central Dade and South Dade, call Missy Whiddon at **(305) 971-3131** or Linda Payne at **(786) 242-9249**.

In Weston, Davie, Plantation, Fort Lauderdale,

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Coral Springs and North, call Harriot Johnston at **(954) 385-2296**.

In Pembroke Pines, Cooper City, Hollywood, Miramar, call Melissa Badami at **(954) 443-7732**.

In Doral and North Dade, call Valerie Peralta at **(305) 436-8340** or Gabriela Scott at **(305) 468-8947**.

## Next Tent Sale

The next Defense Commissary Agency Tent Sale is planned Nov. 15 through 18 at the headquarters.

## Financial planning

There is a financial planning seminar 2 to 4

p.m. Oct. 18 at the Base Operations Education Center located at the Codina Building, Suite 110, 8300 NW 33rd Street.

The class covers goal attainment through financial planning; dynamics of money, interest and compounding; rates of return; mutual funds; equity owner versus debt loaner; dividends, capital gains and share appreciation; traditional versus Roth individual retirement accounts; and cash value versus term life insurance. The event is open to all command members, including family members are welcome. For more information or to sign up for the tour, call **(305) 437-2665**.

# BABY CRIB

Congratulations to the parents of the newest additions to the U.S. Southern Command family. The following babies were born recently:

**Aug. 6: Brennan Michael Rhodes**, son of Michael Rhodes, Command Group, and wife Rhonda, was born at Memorial Regional Hospital in Fort Lauderdale. The baby weighed 9 pounds.



**Aug. 25: Beau Ashley Roberts**, daughter of Air Force Tech. Sgt. Lee Roberts, Public Affairs, and wife Michaela, was born at Memorial West Hospital in Pembroke Pines. The baby weighed 6 pounds, 15 ounces.



# Need clarification?

## Accounting officials talk pay

### Travel policy

Effective Sept. 1, 2001 DFAS Orlando Travel Pay Section implemented a revised procedure for processing problematic travel claims.

Incomplete travel claims are now returned to the traveler if contacts and problem resolution efforts are unsuccessful within 24 hours. This procedure is standard across all DFAS Travel Pay offices.

The purpose of this revised procedure is to provide more efficient and timely processing of those claims that are complete and accurate. Since Jan. 1, 2001, DFAS Orlando has received 5,700 problem travel claims that represent 9 percent of the total claims received. The old policy required these problem claims to be held for one week. By returning them after 24 hours they can be fixed in

more expediently.

### Travel pay

By regulation all travel payments to all military members must be made by electronic fund transfer. DFAS Orlando returns all travel claims that do not provide the appropriate EFT financial data.

### Travel status

Service members at U.S. Southern Command can address the status of their travel claims at DFAS Orlando by E-mailing portal.ssg.gunter.af.mil/tpq2/.

### Travel cards

By regulation the government sponsored travel card -- Visa -- must be used by all U.S. government personnel (military and civilian) to pay for incidental costs and must use an ATM to obtain cash.

As of Aug. 10, 2001, Bank of America is charging a late fee of \$29 when an account is delinquent for 75 days. In addition, a fee of \$29 will be collected for returned checks and a \$10 fee for pay-by-phone. None of these fees are reimbursable.

### Top 10 travel claim deficiencies

- Submission of a copy instead of original claim
- Claim not signed
- Orders not included or missing travel order number or issue date
- Incorrect or incomplete accounting information
- Missing itinerary dates
- Round trip to and from TDY location not reflected on itinerary
- Missing VOCO statement on retroactive orders
- Travel date and authorized proceed date exceed the seven-day window
- Wrong orders attached to claim
- Responsible paying agency is other than Army

# HERE'S YOUR INVITATION TO ATTEND THE 226TH MARINE CORPS BIRTHDAY BALL

U.S. Marine Corps Forces South cordially invites U.S. Southern Command personnel to join in observing the 226th Marine Corps Birthday at a formal dinner and birthday ball 6 p.m. Nov. 3 at the Fort Lauderdale Hilton located on Griffin Road.

Tickets cost \$41 each and include a dual-entrée dinner, dancing and ceremonial music of the Marine Corps Band New Orleans. To purchase tickets, call one of the following points of contact:

- Gunnery Sgt. William Dluhos (305) 437-1003
- Gunnery Sgt. Michael McNealy (305) 437-1613
- Gunnery Sgt. Robert Smith (305) 437-2180
- Staff Sgt. Vincent Smith (305) 437-3025

## Semper Fidelis!





# Honor guards perform for Dolphins, Marlins



Photo by Air Force Capt. Tom Crosson

(Above) The U.S. Southern Command Honor Guard posts the colors at the Miami Dolphins versus Oakland Raiders game Sept. 23. The game, the first since terrorist attacks shocked the nation Sept. 11, had a patriotic and emotional pregame ceremony. (Right) Staff Sgt. Antonio Carter, NCO in charge of the detail, salutes during the National Anthem.



Photo/Capt. Tom Crosson

(Left) The Honor Guard performs at the Florida Marlins versus Atlanta Braves pregame ceremony Sept. 24 at Pro Player Stadium in Miami. (Photo/Tech. Sgt. Lee Roberts)



Photo by Air Force Tech. Sgt. Lee Roberts

The Honor Guard posts the colors at the Florida Marlins game Sept. 24. The game also included a patriotic pregame ceremony.

## She runs to cure leukemia

By Navy Petty Officer  
1st Class Gabe Puello  
Command Run Assistant  
Editor

**R**unning the Marine Corps Marathon in Wash, D.C. is challenge enough for any runner; however, Shelley Alvarez, the J-5 Requirements assistant deputy director, easily tackles the 26.2 mile race knowing she not only runs to benefit her health but also to save the lives of children with



**Shelley Alvarez**

leukemia.

The Leukemia and Lymphoma Society annually sets up marathon training programs for beginner to experienced runners and matches them up with chil-

dren afflicted with the disease. Alvarez first became interested in the running for leukemia and lymphoma victims program after having received a random solicitation postcard in the mail. She became intrigued by the mailer and called to find out more details. "The society's training program can literally take a non-runner from being a couch potato to able to withstand marathon length distances," said Alvarez. These runners then collect a minimum of \$1,500 from individual and corporate

sponsors.

"Earlier this year I ran the Walt Disney World Marathon, and raised over \$2,500. That race put me one thousand dollars ahead with my fund raising efforts," she added.

A boy from Miami named Matthew, who benefited from the proceeds of the Disney race, is in the recessive stage of the deadly disease and his condition is improving. Alvarez's local chapter sponsors "Justin" a boy from the Pembroke Pines area. According to Alvarez, the money recovered by the so-

ciety covers the administrative and runners expenses, while still delivering 85 percent of the accrued funds directly to the patients.

Alvarez keeps track of the different services' contributions at the Southern Command headquarters. Thus far the civilian contributions are leading the way. Fellow runner Maj. John Justice, J-5, also joins Alvarez in her effort find a cure.

"The society accepts any form of contributions. Checks can be made out to The Leukemia Society," said Alvarez.

# Here's to all you special people

(Editor's note: The following article, titled "The Difference," was written anonymously on the Internet and is being reprinted in the Command Run at the request of Lynne Pace, wife of the commander in chief)

## The Difference

Over the years, I've talked a lot about military spouses... how special they are and the price they pay for freedom too. The funny thing about it is most military spouses don't consider themselves different from other spouses.

They do what they have to do, bound together not by blood or merely friendship, but with a shared spirit whose origin is in the very essence of what love truly is. Is there really truly a difference? I think there is. You have to decide for yourself.

Other spouses get married and look forward to building equity in a home and putting down family roots.

Military spouses get married and know they'll live in base housing or will rent, and their roots must be short so they can be transplanted frequently.

Other spouses decorate a home with flair and personality that will last a lifetime. Military spouses decorate a home with flare tempered with the knowledge that no two base houses have the same size windows or same size rooms. Curtains have to be flexible and multiple sets are a plus. Furniture must fit like puzzle pieces.

Other spouses have living rooms that are immaculate and seldom used. Military spouses have immaculate living room/dining room combos. The coffee table got a scratch or two moving

from Germany, but it still looks pretty good.

Other spouses say good-bye to their spouse for a business trip and know they won't see them for a week. They are lonely, but can survive. Military spouses say good-bye to their deploying spouse and know they won't see them for months, or for a remote, a year. They are lonely, but will survive.

Other spouses, when a washer hose blows off, call Maytag and then write a check out for

See **Difference**  
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## Difference

*from Page 29*

getting the hose reconnected. Military spouses will cut the water off and fix it themselves.

Other spouses get used to saying "hello" to friends they see all the time. Military spouses get used to saying "good-bye" to friends made the last two years.

Other spouses worry about whether their child will be class president next year. Military spouses worry about whether their child

will be accepted in yet another new school next year and whether that school will be the worst in the city... again.

Other spouses can count on spouse participation in special events... birthdays, anniversaries, concerts, football games, graduation, and even the birth of a child. Military spouses only count on each other; because they realize that the flag has to come first if freedom is to survive. It has to be that way.

Other spouses

put up yellow ribbons when the troops are imperiled across the globe and take them down when the troops come home. Military spouses wear yellow ribbons around their hearts and they never go away.

Other spouses worry about being late for mom's Thanksgiving dinner. Military spouses worry about getting back from Japan in time for dad's funeral.

And other spouses are touched by the television program showing an

elderly lady putting a card down in front of a long, black wall that has names on it. The card simply says "Happy Birthday, Sweetheart. You would have been 60 today." A military spouse is the lady with the card. And the wall is the Vietnam Memorial.

I would never say military spouses are better or worse than other spouses are. But I will say there is a difference. And I will say that our country asks more of military spouses than is asked of other

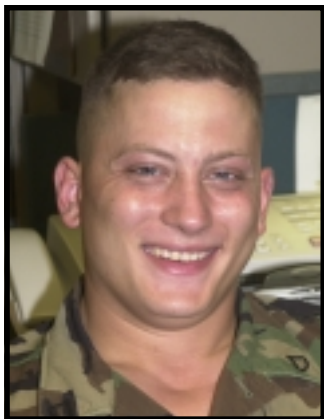
spouses. And I will say, without hesitation, that military spouses pay just as high a price for freedom as do their active duty husbands or wives. Perhaps the price they pay is even higher.

Dying in service to our country isn't near as hard as loving someone who has died in service to our country, and having to live without them.

God bless our military spouses for all they freely give.

And God bless America.

## Pfc. Greg Lehecka



Service: **U.S. Army**

Organization:

**Army Signal Activity**

Duty title:

**Transportation driver**

Time in service: **3 years**

Hometown: **New York, N.Y.**

Hobbies: **Installing car stereos, boxing, soccer and wrestling**

Favorite duty station: **2nd**

**Infantry Division, Korea**

Career highlights: **Traveling in Asia**

## Senior Airman Roxana Pagán Sánchez



Service: **U.S. Air Force**

Organization: **U.S. Southern Command Army Health Clinic**

Duty title: **Medic**

Time in service: **3 years**

Hometown: **Levittown, Puerto Rico**

Hobbies: **Cooking, working out, spending a lot of time with family, and going**

**to the beach**

Favorite duty station: **Eglin Air Force Base, Fla.**

Career highlights: **Getting married, finishing bachelor degree in biology, being upgraded for duty job in three months, being first in unit to be certified as immunizations technician**

## ***Heightened security***

**Defense Protective  
Service officers search  
vehicles entering the U.S.  
Southern Command  
Headquarters in Miami  
Sept. 11. The officers  
implemented heightened  
security measures after  
terrorists attacked the  
World Trade Center in New  
York and the Pentagon in  
Washington D.C.  
(Photo by Air Force Tech.  
Sgt. Lee Roberts)**

